



*An independent, nonpartisan research and public policy agency of the
Connecticut General Assembly*

News

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‘Livable Communities’ Forum Slated at Capitol Jan. 14

HARTFORD—Municipal leaders, legislators, public policy experts and residents from throughout the state will participate in a Jan. 14 forum designed to prepare Connecticut's towns and cities for the “silver tsunami” generated by the soaring population of older adults.

“Livable Communities for All Ages,” sponsored by the Connecticut Commission on Aging (CoA) and Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM), will take place from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in room 2C of the Legislative Office Building adjacent to the state Capitol.

The forum, which is free and open to the public, was postponed Nov. 1 due to Hurricane Sandy.

The event will feature presentations by state and national experts, discussion sessions and time for questions and answers. It is presented in partnership with the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy and the state chapter of the American Planning Association.

“This is a great opportunity for elected officials, town managers, planners and other community leaders to share concerns, success stories and ideas to help them gear up for unprecedented demographic changes that are already affecting our state and nation,” said CoA Executive Director Julia Evans Starr.

In addition to the municipal leaders, state and local policymakers, representatives from the public and private sectors and other key stakeholders will explore how the growing older adult population affects housing, economic development, community support systems, civic engagement, “walk-ability,” wellness, safety and personal economic security.

According to the CoA, demographic shifts have a profound social and economic impact on Connecticut’s communities and are driven by several key factors:

- Connecticut is the seventh oldest state in the nation, with 507,000 residents over the age of 65.
- The over-65 segment will grow by more than 64 percent between 2006 and 2030--while the population of people 21-64 decreases.

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- Connecticut is home to almost one-million baby boomers—nearly one-third the total population—and the oldest members of this group have already turned 66.
- A major policy and cultural shift in Connecticut and nationally is allowing people to “age in place” (their communities) rather than in institutions.

“Our municipal leaders want their communities to be ‘livable’ for people of all ages and positive changes they make help accomplish that goal,” said CCM Executive Director and CEO James J. Finley, Jr. “The forum offers attendees an opportunity to review best practices across the state and nation and to share success stories as well as concerns,” he said.

The keynote address will be presented by Coralette Hannon, senior legislative representative from the national office of AARP.

Speakers will also include Evans Starr and Finley, James L. Lisher, chairman of the New Canaan Health and Human Services Commission; Nancy Roberts, president of the Connecticut Council for Philanthropy; Dawn Lambert, director of the Money Follows the Person program at the state Department of Social Services; and Sharon Mierzwa, program director/equity for the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health.

To register or obtain further information on the forum call the CoA at (860) 240-5200 or email coa@cga.ct.gov.

Located at the state Capitol, the Connecticut Commission on Aging is an independent, non-partisan research and public policy agency of the Connecticut General Assembly.

The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is a statewide association of towns and cities that celebrates the commonalities between, and champions the interests of, urban, suburban and rural communities.

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